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The Campus---Past, Present and Future

By THEO. SMITH, B. Arch. '16

Some fifty-five years ago the United States government gave to the state of Ohio 630,000 acres of public domain for the establishment of an Agricultural School. This land was sold for about \$341,000 which fund was deposited in the State Treasury and serves as an endowment for the University. The Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College was opened in the fall of 1873, and the name was changed to Ohio State University by the legislature in 1878.

At that time the campus consisted of cow pastures and corn fields, and the only buildings which it could boast were the present University Hall, a small Power House just north of it, a log cabin for the janitor on the site at present occupied by Orton Hall, and a few residences, one of them being the president's residence at the Fifteenth Avenue entrance to the campus. A road which crossed the campus from a point on High Street near the present Archaeological Museum, to Neil Avenue, and another leading from this to the University Hall, formed the approach to the University. There were culverts at both Neil Avenue and High Street at points opposite Mirror Lake, and even some of the younger alumnae can remember the stiles and fence along Eleventh Avenue, and the criss-cross gate near the Union to keep the cows in. Between the Union and Eleventh Avenue there was a ball diamond and a running track of which traces still remain.

Now the campus is growing so fast that the making of maps can scarcely keep pace with it. The old campus is changing from day to day and new buildings are being added, new roads and paths built, old roads and paths repaired and improved, new equipment is being installed, trees and shrubs planted, and all the network of tunnels, wires, plumbing, sewage, etc., are being added and the present ones kept in repair. The busy student does not stop to think of the miles of wire required to bring the current to the various laboratories, of the miles of tunnels over which he daily goes to his classes, or of the miles of pipe required to carry heat from the central power house to the various buildings all over the campus. These tunnels like huge arteries reach out to every building and carry the heat, light, and power which bear the life of campus activity.

At the present time there is in all about 800 acres of land which belongs to the University, of which the campus occupies about 110 acres. The new map truly shows only a portion of the University grounds, that part shown being only

the campus proper. There are fifty some buildings valued at about \$3,000,000, and nearly \$500,000 has been appropriated for buildings to be built in the near future. Today the University property, viz., buildings, land and equipment are valued at over \$6,300,000 not including the new buildings for the School of Military Aeronautics and the equipment necessary for the work of this school.

Some of the buildings completed within the last five years are: the Library, Archaeological Museum, Homoeopathic Hospital, Botany and Zoology Building, Home Economics Building, Horticulture Building, and the Shops Building. There have also been additions to the Physics Building, Ohio Union and the Service Building during that time, in addition to many minor changes in several other buildings. Within the last year the Barracks, Laboratory and Machine Gun Range, for the School of Military Aeronautics, have been built, and a Hospital for this school will be built in the near future. In addition to these new buildings the capacity of the Ohio Union dining room has been increased to accommodate the men sent here by the government and the storage and refrigerating space greatly increased. A mezzanine floor has been constructed in the gymnasium at the level of the running track in order to make more space for the aviators who are using this building for a barracks.

In comparing the roads and walks of the present map with those of the map a few years ago, we find that the matter of circulation is being solved to a great extent. This old map shows walks and boards running nervously all over the campus, apparently starting nowhere and ending the same place. Every building on the campus had a path leading to it from every other building, each illustrating that old axiom that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Buildings were built in all sorts of positions without regard to the surrounding buildings which were already built, and without any apparent thought for the future. Perhaps there may have been reasons at the time of their erection but now some of them have proven to be handicaps to the proper development of the University as a whole. Perhaps no one dreamed that Ohio State University would become as great as it is, yet today our dreams carry us to a campus larger still, and we see our school the greatest in the United States, instead of ranking ninth.

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The plans of the future have in mind the removal of the buildings which do not lend themselves to best development of the University. These will gradually be replaced by better buildings in more advantageous positions, properly grouped architecturally. The new Power House will be added to from time to time until it is large enough to accommodate the buildings depending on it. New tunnels will be built to carry the increased load which will be necessary and all of the wiring, plumbing, sewage, etc., will grow in proportion.

The changes on the present campus will include the erection of the new Women's Building which is to be built soon, and the addition to the Chemistry Building, addition to Lord Hall, the completion of the Physics Building, the completion of Brown Hall, the erection of a new building for the Schools of Art and Architecture, the erection of an Administration Building in the space between the Chemistry Building and University Hall, the completion of the Engineering group to the north of the Chemistry Building, the completion of the

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Homoeopathic Hospital group of which only a very small portion is built at the present time, the increasing of the dormitory facilities for women in the completing of the group of which Oxley Hall is only a beginning, the building of a dormitory group for men, which is so badly needed, the completion of the greenhouses, and many other changes. Monumental entrances to the campus at both Neil Avenue and Fifteenth Avenue have been designed and a Campanile is to be built at a high point on the oval, and in this the chimes will be hung. A Greek theatre will be built in the hollow near the spring and when the old grads come back there will be guides and rubberneck wagons to show the sights for the small sum of one dollar.

The map which we all know now will grow and

cross the river to a bigger and better Agricultural School on the other side. Better roads and paths will lead us west to the new Athletic Group, a new Ohio Field and Stadium, to which the city electric cars will come by way of Woodruff Avenue and loop back by way of Neil Avenue. Parking space will be provided to accommodate the thousands of cars which will come to see Ohio win the world championship aero-polo matches after the war. There will be an immense landing field "somewhere along the river," and a boating course will be provided by building a dam in the river. The river will be widened to provide a landing place for hydroplanes in cross country races.

Dreams? Yes, but the world is built on dreams, and we can build a greater Ohio State University on our wildest dreams for the future. Nothing is impossible for a school which but a few years ago sprung out of corn fields and cow pastures.